

Abstract of the Disclosure

A switch unit included in one optical node is configured by a plurality of switch circuits having
5 ports the number of which is fewer than that of lines to be accommodated by the switch unit. Since the plurality of switch circuits are mutually independent as sub-switches of the switch unit, the entire switch unit does not become a complete group switch.
10 Accordingly, the line that is accommodated by each of the sub-switches is determined by a service provided to a user accommodated by the line. The switch unit is configured by independent sub-switches as described above, whereby an optical node having a simple
15 configuration can be implemented with small and inexpensive switches. Furthermore, a service provided by the optical node can be easily added by replacing a sub-switch.